ANOTHER LIONS FIRING, ANOTHER SEARCH BEGINS

Caldwell's record spoke louder than his words

Mitch Albom
Columnist
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Whenever anyone asked about his future — and down the stretch they asked weekly — Jim Caldwell would deflect with "That's not for me to decide" or "We're not going to talk about that."

Toward the end, he even cited his own behavior as precedent — "You've never heard me blame anything ..." or "You've never heard me defend myself ..." — as if the most important thing for Caldwell was being consistent in saying nothing about his performance.

In the end, his record spoke for itself. The plays spoke for themselves. The miscues spoke for themselves. The losses spoke for themselves.

Caldwell, 62, is gone after four years at the wheel, and the fairest thing you can say about a fair man who behaved fairly is that this was a fair conclusion.

It's the NFL. Treading water is the same as going backward.

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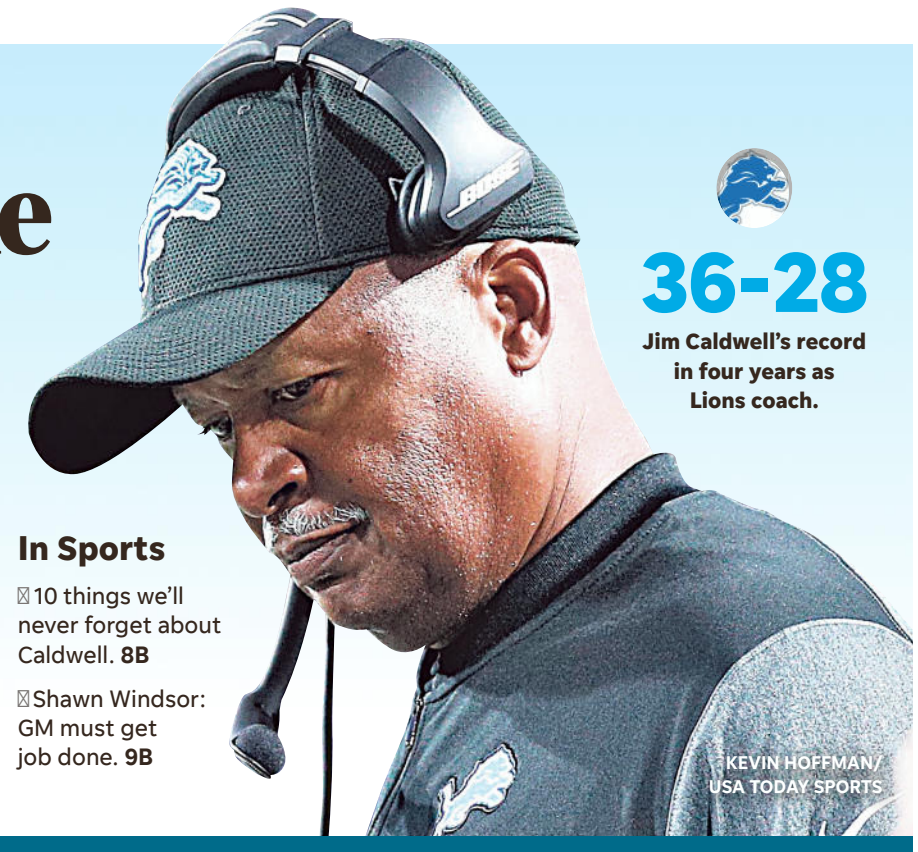

36-28
Jim Caldwell's record in four years as Lions coach.

KEVIN HOFFMAN/ USA TODAY SPORTS

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Baby is 'miracle' for local parents

Gabriella Una Gonzales is first born in 2018 at Beaumont Health's hospitals.

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Trump's agenda may be struggle

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U-M FALLS 26-19 TO SOUTH CAROLINA IN OUTBACK BOWL

Empty-handed

Loss puts pressure on Harbaugh to deliver big in 2018

U-M wide receiver Donovan Peoples-Jones is tackled by South Carolina defensive backs D.J. Smith and JaMarcus King at the Outback Bowl at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Jeff Seidel
Columnist
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

TAMPA, Fla. – This is all on Jim Harbaugh.

At the end of his third season, the savior of the Michigan football program has accomplished nothing.

The Wolverines are nowhere near the top of the Big Ten. They are nowhere near a national title. They can't beat their rivals. And they couldn't even win the Outback Bowl, for bloomin' onion sakes, as the Wolverines suffered a monumental collapse on Monday afternoon, losing to South Carolina, 26-19.

In the end, Michigan finished its season with a whimper, losing its third straight, the only Big Ten team to lose a bowl game.

But this was more than a defeat. This was an absolute collapse, like a house of cards, built on nothing but hype, getting blown down in the wind.

"Huge win for our program," said South Carolina coach Will Muschamp. "We don't have all the trophies and the tradition and the history, but we've got some grit. We've got some toughness and resolve."

Michigan, of course, has all the tradition and history.

But it became clear in this game the Wolverines didn't have the same type of grit as South Carolina. The Wolverines didn't have

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Jim Harbaugh

In Sports

- New year, but same old struggles. **1B**
- U-M grades: Offense drops ball again. **2B**

RELIEF FOR TAXPAYERS?

State tax debate revs up after U.S. reform

Lawmakers considering changes to offset a hike

Paul Egan Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

LANSING – The long-running debate over a state income tax cut could be about to reignite.

This time, it's the recently approved federal tax cut that is triggering the issue.

Though not all economists agree, state officials expect President Donald Trump's tax cut, approved by Congress in December, to result in a $1.4-billion tax windfall for the State of Michigan, because of higher personal income taxes for most Michigan residents.

The federal plan merges the personal exemption, which is reduced from $4,050 to zero, into a larger standard deduction, which is increased from $6,350 to $12,000 for individuals and from $12,700 to $24,000 for married couples.

That change could have implications for state taxpayers, who currently are able to take a $4,000 exemption for each federal exemption they claim. Individuals will lose a $4,000 deduction from their taxable income, and a family of four will lose a $16,000 deduction, House Fiscal Agency Senior Economist Jim Stansell told the Free Press.

That equates to a $170 state tax hike for an individual and a $680 hike for a family of four — both of which would apply to income earned in 2018.

Gov. Rick Snyder has already promised legislation to eliminate what would be an unplanned tax hike and make the change revenue-neutral at the state level.

Snyder told the Associated Press "the federal tax reform is going to cause people's Michigan taxes to go up," and "we should figure out how to give that back to the hardworking taxpayers."

Snyder is expected to propose a new $4,000 exemption or some other change to counter those increases.

"We are awaiting a comprehensive analysis from Treasury before making any decisions or proposals," said Snyder spokeswoman Anna Heaton. "That is expected in early January."

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